Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit (SMPRU)

2009 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 008 0061

Important Information about your Drinking Water:

Special points of interest:

- The water at SMPRU was tested for over 120 different compounds
- The SMPRU drinking water met both State and Federal requirements
- Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (800-426-4791)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2009. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. More than 800 tests for over 120 compounds were conducted on the water at SMPRU. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility, and prepared this report. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The water for SMPRU comes from two wells. The underground source of the well water is called the Magothy aquifer. After the water is pumped out of the well, we filter the water to reduce and remove some contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

We're pleased to report that your drinking water met both Federal and State requirements. This report shows the water quality and explains what it means. If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Jay Janney of Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350 or jjann@menv.com**

We want everyone to be informed about their water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the regulated drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past several years. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2009. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit Treated Water Quality Report 2009

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter

mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Oaks Road - Charlotte Hall, MD - Plant I.D. 01				
Gross Beta (2005 Testing)	4 mrem/yr	0.88 mrem/year	0 mrem/yr	Decay of natural deposits
Nickel (2008 Testing)	100 ppb	3 ppb	100 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2008 Testing)	2000 ppb	30 ppb	2000 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2008 Testing	4000 ppb	100 ppb	4 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated in the Distribution				
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2008 Testing)	80 ppb	2.98 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2008 Testing)	60 ppb	2.29 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated at the Consumer's Tap				
Copper (2008 Testing)	1300 ppb (action level)	90th percentile = 92 ppb	1300 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems
Lead (2008 Testing)	15 ppb (action level)	90th percentile = 1 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking Water Sources:
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.